

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A medical appliance for placement within a portion of anatomy of a patient, the appliance comprising:

a scaffolding defining a substantially cone-shaped member having a proximal end and a distal end, ~~wherein the distal end has having~~ an internal diameter larger than that of the proximal end ~~but less than the greatest internal diameter of the cone-shaped member~~, the cone-shaped member forming a lumen there through and configured to facilitate the flow of bile through the lumen, the scaffolding configured such that when pressure is exerted along varying points of the appliance, the appliance does not undesirably foreshorten or elongate.

Claim 2 (original): The medical appliance of claim 1, wherein along the longitudinal extension of the appliance, the scaffolding forms geometrical patterns.

Claim 3 (original): The medical appliance of claim 2, wherein the scaffolding further comprises a coating coupled with the scaffolding, the coating of sufficient thickness to prevent the medical appliance from becoming epithelialized when installed in the desired portion of the patient's anatomy.

Claim 4 (original): The medical appliance of claim 3, wherein the coating does not inhibit flexing or radial expansion of the medical appliance.

Claim 5 (original): The medical appliance of claim 4, wherein the coating is coupled with the medical appliance.

Claim 6 (original): The medical appliance of claim 2, wherein the dimensions of the scaffolding geometry determine torsionality of the medical appliance.

Claim 7 (original): The medical appliance of claim 1, wherein the scaffolding is formed of a memory capable alloy.

Claim 8 (original): The medical appliance of claim 7, wherein the scaffolding is electropolished.

Claim 9 (original): The medical appliance of claim 1, wherein the scaffolding of the medical appliance further comprises a plurality of eyelets there through for receiving suture.

Claim 10 (original): The medical appliance of claim 2, further comprising a connector coupled with portions of the geometrical patterns, the connector comprising a crossing member and a plurality of leg members extending from the crossing member.

Claim 11 (original): The medical appliance of claim 10, wherein the connector further comprises a rectangular detent extending from a leg thereof.

Claim 12 (original): The medical appliance of claim 10, wherein the length of the leg members and the degree of the angle at which the legs extend from the crossing member determines the relative flexibility of the medical appliance.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 12, wherein the angle at which the leg members extend from the crossing member is greater than 90°.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 13, wherein the medical appliance is relatively rigid.

Claim 15 (previously amended): The medical appliance of claim 12, wherein the angle at which the leg members extend from the crossing member is 90° or less.

Claim 16 (previously amended): The medical appliance of claim 15, wherein the medical appliance is relatively flexible.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 2, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially U-shaped.

Claim 18 (original): The medical appliance of claim 2, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially W-shaped.

Claim 19 (original): The medical appliance of claim 2, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially V-shaped.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 2, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially Z-shaped.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 2, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially S-shaped.

Claim 22 (original): The medical appliance of claim 2, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially X-shaped.

Claim 23 (original): The medical appliance of claim 1, further comprising an additional distal end wherein the medical appliance forms a substantially Y-shape.

Claim 24 (original): The medical appliance of claim 23, wherein along the longitudinal extension of the appliance, the scaffolding forms geometrical patterns.

Claim 25 (original): The medical appliance of claim 24, wherein the scaffolding further comprises a coating coupled with the scaffolding, the coating of sufficient thickness to prevent the medical appliance from becoming epithelialized when installed in the desired portion of the patient's anatomy.

Claim 26 (original): The medical appliance of claim 25, wherein the dimensions of the scaffolding geometry determine torsionality of the medical appliance.

Claim 27 (original): The medical appliance of claim 25, wherein the scaffolding is formed of a memory capable alloy.

Claim 28 (previously amended): The medical appliance of claim 25, wherein the scaffolding is electropolished.

Claim 29 (original): The medical appliance of claim 25, wherein near the distal and proximal ends of the scaffolding the medical appliance further comprise a plurality of flanges that define apertures there through.

Claim 30 (original): The medical appliance of claim 23, further comprising a connector member coupled with portions of the geometrical patterns, the connector comprising a crossing member and a plurality of leg members extending from the crossing member.

Claim 31 (original): The medical appliance of claim 30, wherein the connector further comprises a rectangular detent extending from a leg thereof.

Claim 32 (original): The medical appliance of claim 30, wherein the length of the leg members or the degree of the angle at which the legs extend from the crossing member positively contributes to the relative flexibility of the medical appliance.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 32, wherein the angle at which the leg members extend from the crossing member is greater than 90°.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 33, wherein the medical appliance is relatively rigid.

Claim 35 (previously amended): The medical appliance of claim 32, wherein the angle at which the leg members extend from the crossing member is 90° or less.

Claim 36 (original): The medical appliance of claim 35, wherein the medical appliance is relatively flexible.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 23, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially U-shaped.

Claim 38 (original): The medical appliance of claim 23, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially W-shaped.

Claim 39 (original): The medical appliance of claim 23, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially V-shaped.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 23, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially Z-shaped.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 23, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially S-shaped.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): The medical appliance of claim 23, wherein the geometrical patterns are substantially S-shaped.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A method of treating a patient suffering from luminal irregularities, comprising the steps of:

providing a medical appliance comprising a scaffolding defining a substantially cone-shaped member, ~~wherein the distal end has~~ having an internal diameter larger than that of the proximal end but less than the greatest internal diameter of the cone-shaped member, the cone-shaped member forming a lumen there through and configured to facilitate the flow of bile through the lumen, the scaffolding configured such that when pressure is exerted along varying points of the appliance, the appliance does not undesirably foreshorten or elongate;

installing the medical appliance in a preferred location of the anatomy of the patient; and

activating the expansion of the medical appliance in the desired location.

Claim 44 (original): The method of claim 43, wherein the preferred location is a non-vascular lumen.

Claim 45 (original): The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of removing the medical appliance from the anatomy of the patient.

Claim 46 (original): The method of claim 44, wherein the medical appliance further comprises anti-microbial agents coupled therewith.

Claim 47 (original): The method of claim 44, wherein the medical appliance further comprises chemotherapeutic agents coupled therewith.

Claim 48 (original): The medical appliance of claim 43, further comprising an additional distal end wherein the medical appliance forms a substantially Y-shape.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A method of removing a medical appliance from a patient, comprising the steps of:

locating the medical appliance comprising a scaffolding defining a substantially cone-shaped member, wherein the distal end has~~having~~ an internal diameter larger than that of the proximal end but less than the greatest internal diameter of the cone-shaped member, the medical appliance further comprising a plurality of eyelets and suture threaded there through, the cone-shaped member forming a lumen there through and configured to facilitate the flow of bile through the lumen, the scaffolding configured such that when pressure is exerted along varying points of the appliance, the appliance does not undesirably foreshorten or elongate;

grasping the suture threaded through the eyelets of the medical appliance;
pulling on the suture to reduce the outward radial force of the medical appliance; and
removing the medical appliance from the patient.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): An article of manufacture for placement in the intestinal system of a patient wherein said patient has had the Sphincter of Oddi rendered inoperable, the article comprising an annular ring for placement about the location of the Sphincter of Oddi to prevent the reocclusion of the intestinal tract.